GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:619
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
PROTECTION TO MARINE SPECIES
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the marine species are facing threat of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a meeting headed by PM was held recently to provide protection to marine species;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide protection to these marine species ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, some of the marine species are facing threat due to habitat destruction, over exploitation, commercial fishing, by-catches during commercial fishing etc.

(c) & (d) The issue of conservation and management of marine species was one of the agenda items for the 4th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife held on 1st November 2007 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister.

(e) The steps taken to provide protection to marine species are as given below:

(i) All cetaceans (Whales, Porpoises & Dolphins) and 10 species of elasmobranch (sharks & rays), Holothurians, Corals, 9 species of Molluscs, Sea Horses, Giant Grouper have been included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby affording them highest degree of protection. Hunting of these species is prohibited as per the provisions of the Act.

(ii) With the amendments in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the penalty for poaching of species included in the Schedules of the Act and illegal trade in its parts and products has been enhanced.

(iii) Financial and technical assistance are provided to the State/UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries' for development of protected areas which include marine national parks as well.

(iv) All developmental activities within the Coastal Regulation Zone area are regulated.

(v) India is a signatory to the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for conservation of marine species and its habitats and for control of illegal trade in its parts & products.